

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Los Angeles, CA 90013



April 13, 2017

File Number: XREQ 2017040002  
Churchill Avenue  
Palo Alto, Santa Clara

Stephen Chao  
Deputy Director, Engineering  
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board  
1250 San Carlos Avenue  
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306

**SENT VIA E-MAIL**

**Re: General Order 88-B Request for Authority to Alter the Churchill Avenue At-Grade Highway-Rail Crossing, CPUC Crossing No. 105E-31.00 and DOT No. 754998E in the City of Palo Alto, County of Santa Clara.**

Dear Mr. Chao:

This refers to your letter received by us via email on February 23, 2017, requesting authorization, pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission/CPUC) General Order (GO) 88-B, to alter the Churchill Avenue at-grade highway-rail crossing (crossing) of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (PCJX) tracks in the City of Palo Alto (City), County of Santa Clara. The crossing is identified as CPUC Crossing No. 105E-31.00 and DOT No. 754998E.

The existing configuration consists of a double-track crossing over a three lane roadway with two sidewalks, two bicycle lanes, one Commission Standard 9 (flashing light signal assembly with automatic gate) warning device, one Commission Standard 9-A (Commission Standard 9 with additional flashing light signals over the roadway on a cantilevered arm) warning device, advance railroad preemption, four Commission Standard 9 pedestrian gates, pedestrian channelization, four exit swing gates, and detectable warning strips on all sidewalk approaches.

The proposed alterations, as indicated in the PCJX's request letter and/or shown on the plans, shall consist of:

- Installing a curb and bollard median on the west approach; and
- Applying California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) compliant signage and pavement markings.

The Commission's Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch (RCEB) staff has investigated the request by PCJX, and finds it adequately addresses compliance and safety. As the City and PCJX (Parties) are in agreement as to the design and apportionments of the cost under the provisions of GO 88-B, PCJX may proceed with the improvements as described in its request letter and attachments, and summarized above. PCJX must complete all the proposed alterations mentioned above for RCEB to consider this GO 88-B application closed.

PCJX must ensure that Emergency Notification Signs are installed to comply with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 234.309.

All Parties shall comply with all applicable rules, including other Commission General Orders and the latest version of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CAMUTCD). Temporary traffic controls shall be in compliance with the latest version of the CAMUTCD and detour plans as agreed to by the Parties.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environment Quality Act of 1970, as amended [California Public Resources Code 21084].

This authorization shall expire if the above conditions are not complied with or if the work is not completed within three years of the date of this letter. Upon written request to this office, the time to complete the project may be extended. A written request for a time extension must include concurrence letters by interested Parties in support of the time extension. If an extension is requested, RCEB may reevaluate the crossing prior to granting an extension.

Within 30 days after completion of this project, PCJX shall notify RCEB that the authorized work is completed by submitting a completed Commission Standard Form G. Form G requirements and forms can be obtained at the CPUC web site at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/crossings/>. This report may be submitted electronically to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

At the conclusion of the project, PCJX must submit an updated electronic inventory form (Form F6180.71) to the Federal Railroad Administration, reflecting the changes. 49 CFR 234 Section 234.409 requires the railroads to submit periodic crossing inventory updates a minimum of once every three years. The Commission requests a concurrent copy of the updated inventory form be submitted to [rceb@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:rceb@cpuc.ca.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Felix Ko at (415) 703-3722 or email at [felix.ko@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:felix.ko@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Anton Garabetian, P. E.  
Program and Project Supervisor  
Rail Crossings and Engineering Branch  
Safety and Enforcement Division

**SENT VIA E-MAIL**

Cc: Joshuah Mello, City  
Robert Tam, PCJX